

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the third full paragraph on page 2 with the following paragraph:

The position of the sample 8 on the XY stage 9 is managed by measuring the distance between a bar mirror 13 and a laser interference meter 12, and through feed forwarding the obtained information to the deflector 7 a highly accurate circuit pattern can be formed. Inside of a sample chamber 10 is kept in a high vacuum environment by a sample chamber use vacuum pump 17 to thereby prevent energy loss of the electron beams 3.

Please substitute the paragraph that starts on line 27 of page 2 with the following paragraph:

The sample 8 is transported by a transportation device 16 in a load chamber 14 located adjacent to the sample chamber 10 from external in atmospheric circumstance into the load chamber 14, which is preliminarily gas-evacuated from atmospheric state into vacuum state a load chamber use vacuum pump 18. When the vacuum in the load chamber 14 reaches at the same level as that in sample chamber 10, a valve 15 is opened and the sample 8 is transported onto the XY stage 9. After completing pattern drawing, a reverse route is traced, in that inside of the load chamber 14 is returned from vacuum into atmospheric circumstance and thereafter, the sample 8 is transported into outside. With the above series of operations, the transportation of the sample can be carried out while keeping the sample chamber 10 in vacuum state, thereby, an improvement of throughput is achieved.

Please substitute the second full paragraph on page 18 with the following paragraph:

Since the distance between the upper face of the top table 21 and the bottom face of the sample chamber cover 11 is narrow as from a few μm to 10 and few μm , when a flow rate of evacuated gas from the upper face of the top table 21 is sufficiently large with respect to a flow rate flowing into the evacuation use groove portion ~~21F~~ 21E from inside the sample chamber 10 being in low vacuum, depressurization rapidly advances after the start of evacuation because of small volume of the region surrounded by the evacuation use groove portion 21E, the bottom face of the sample chamber cover 11 and the open and close cover 42.